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The Prophecy

A TIBETAN TALE



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 291, August 1, 1983



Editor

ANANT PAI

Associate Editors

KAMALA CHANDRAKANT

SUBBA RAO

Art Consultant

EAM WAERKAR

Script

GOPAMUDEA

Artwork

EAM WAERKAR

Production

GOVIND KOTWANI



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The Prophecy

Buddhism took root in Tibet between the 7th and 10th centuries.

By the 14th century the sacred books of the Buddhists in Pali and Sanskrit had been rendered into the Tibetan language. Some of the Sanskrit texts lost in India, the country of their origin, are today known to us only from their Tibetan translations. This Chitra Katha is based on a story from one such translation.

Today Tibetan is spoken in Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal and in parts of India, including Sikkim.

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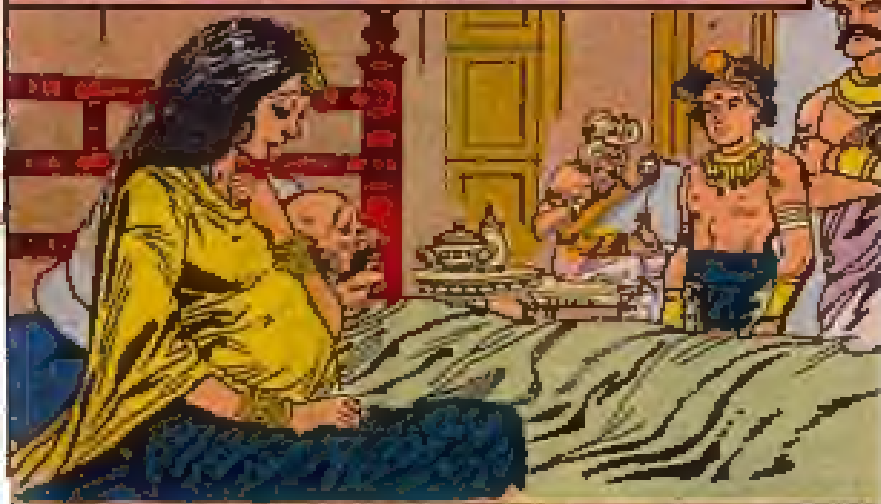


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THE PROPHECY



THE KING OF VARANASI LAY ON HIS DEATHBED.



I WILL LEAVE
BEHIND CONTENTED
SUBJECTS,
A PROSPEROUS
KINGDOM AND
AN HEIR.



LOYAL
GOSHTHILA WILL
CONTINUE TO
GUIDE MY SON,
SURYANEMI AS
HE GUIDED ME.

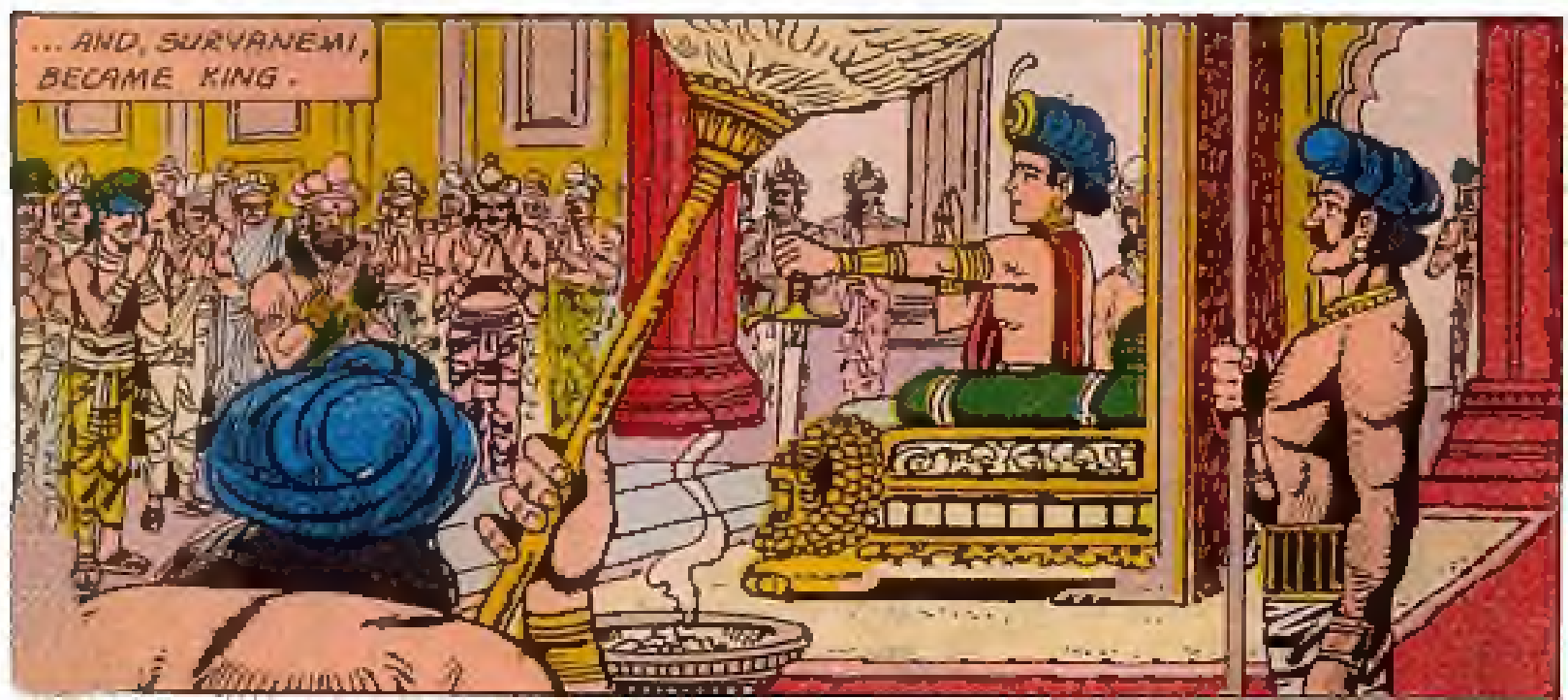


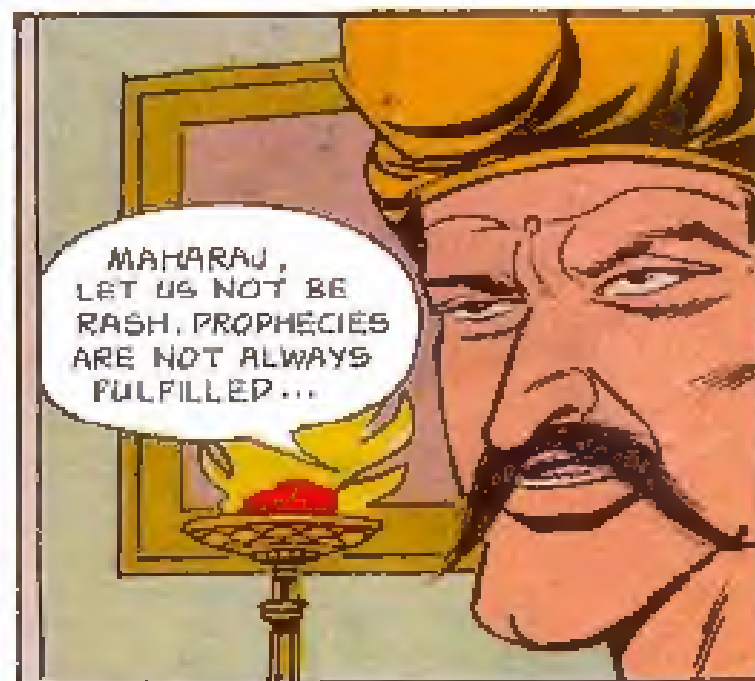
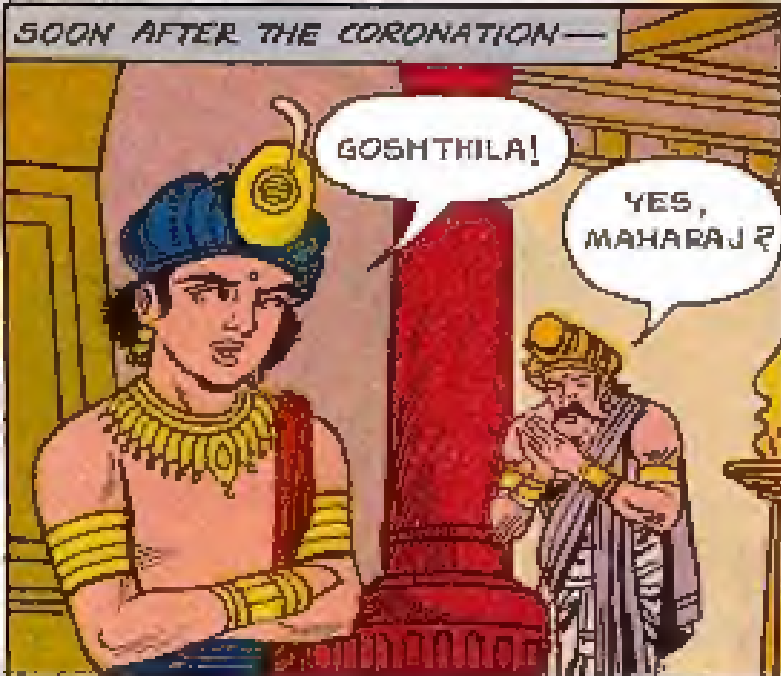
I HAVE LIVED
WELL AND I'M
NOT AFRAID
OF DEATH. AND
YET...



...AND YET IF ONLY
I KNEW THAT ALL
WOULD BE WELL WITH
MY DEAR QUEEN WHO
IS EXPECTING MY
CHILD...

O KING,
THERE IS
NOTHING TO
WORRY
ABOUT.





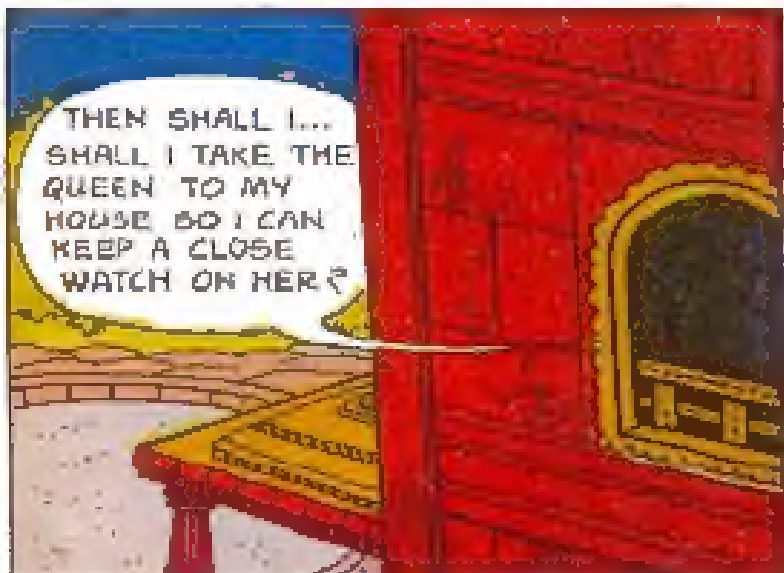


IF SHE
HAS A SON,
WE'LL KILL
HIM.

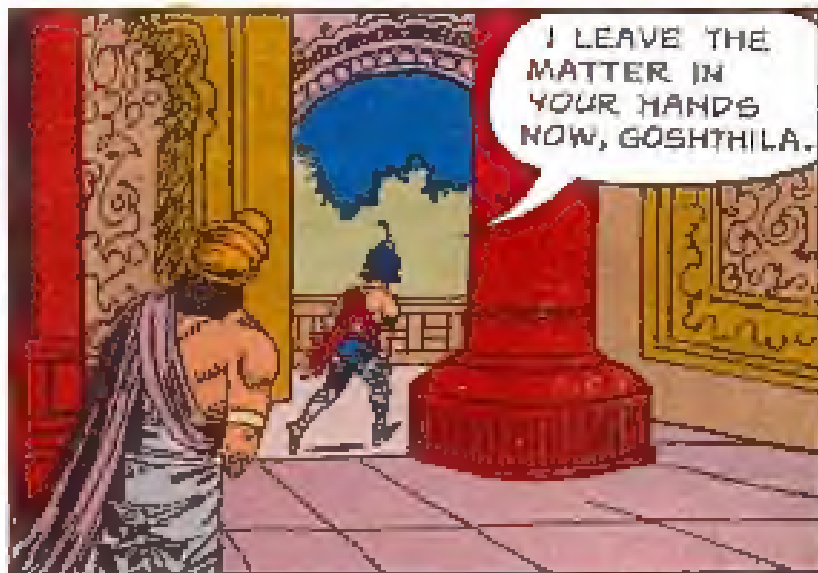


AND YOUR THRONE
WILL BE SAFE!

AN EXCELLENT
SUGGESTION,
GOSHTHILA!



THEN SHALL I...
SHALL I TAKE THE
QUEEN TO MY
HOUSE SO I CAN
KEEP A CLOSE
WATCH ON HER?



I LEAVE THE
MATTER IN
YOUR HANDS
NOW, GOSHTHILA.



THAT VERY DAY
GOSHTHILA TOOK
THE QUEEN HOME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY
I HAD TO LEAVE THE
PALACE AND COME HERE,
GOSHTHILA. BUT I TRUST
YOU.

I ONLY HOPE
I WILL BE ABLE
TO LIVE UP TO
THAT TRUST.

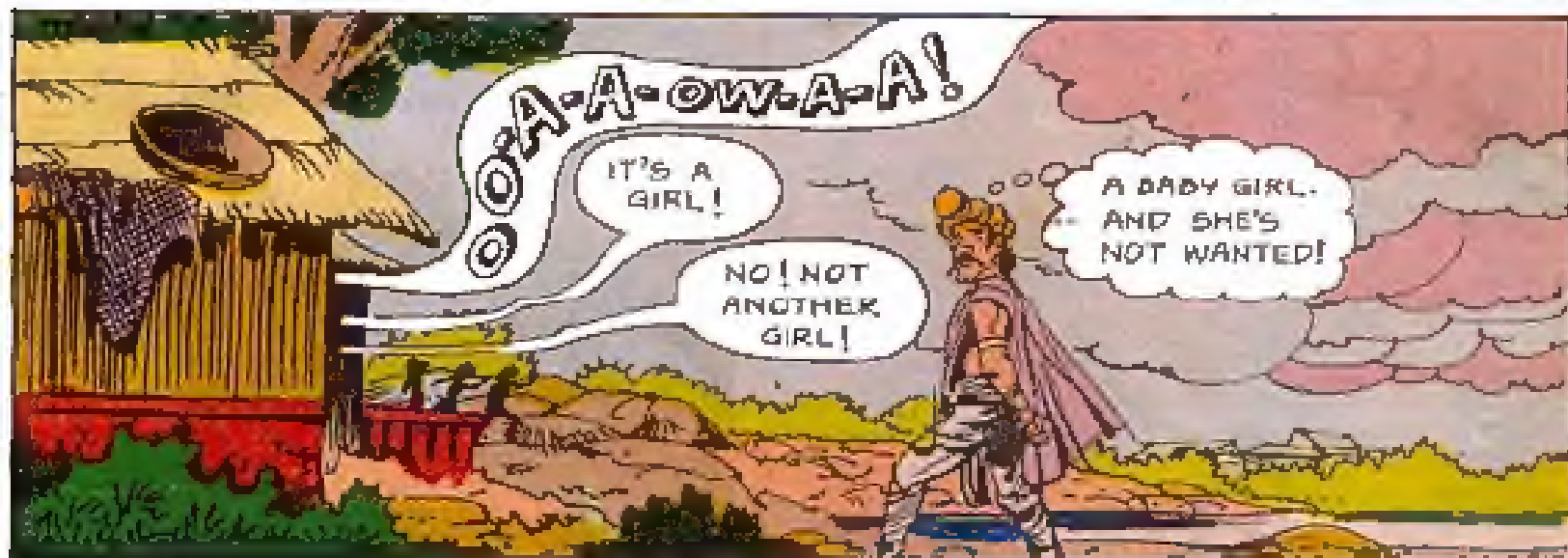
A WEEK LATER —

A SON HAS BEEN BORN TO THE QUEEN. WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

LEAVE THAT TO ME.

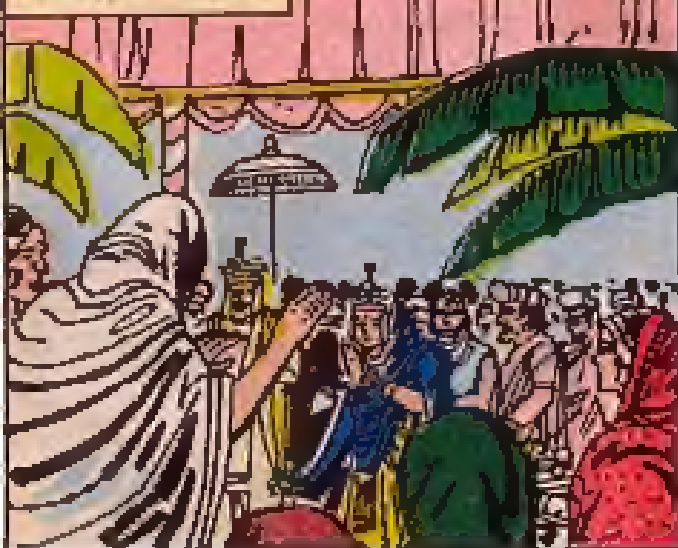
NOT FEELING AS CONFIDENT AS HE SOUNDED, GOSHTHILA WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE.

NOW WHAT? WHAT DO I DO?





MANY YEARS PASSED. THE QUEEN'S FOSTER DAUGHTER WAS GIVEN AWAY IN MARRIAGE.



A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WEDDING —



AT LEAST LET ME SEE HIM, GOSHTHILA.



GOSHTHILA WENT TO THE FISHERMAN'S HOUSE.

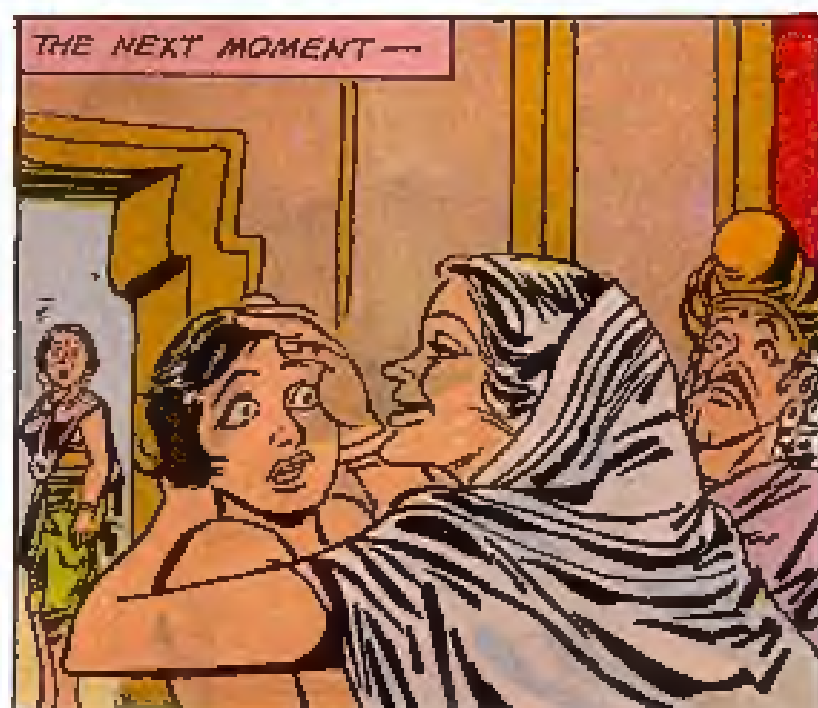
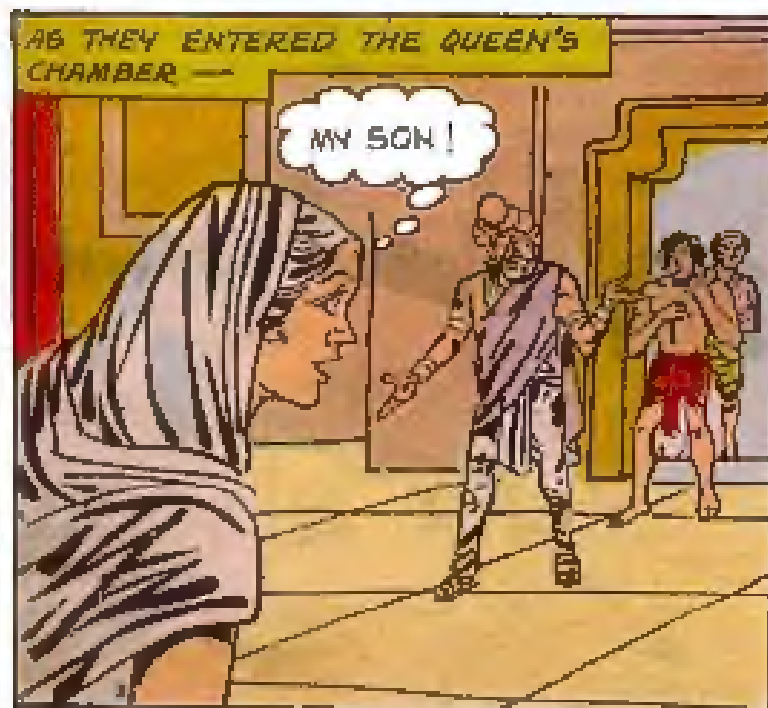


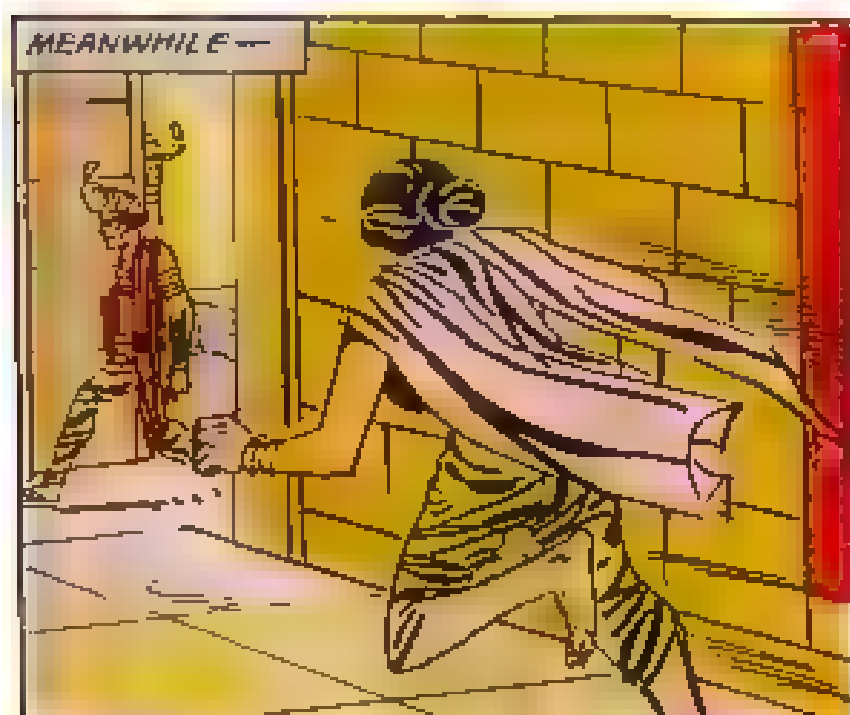
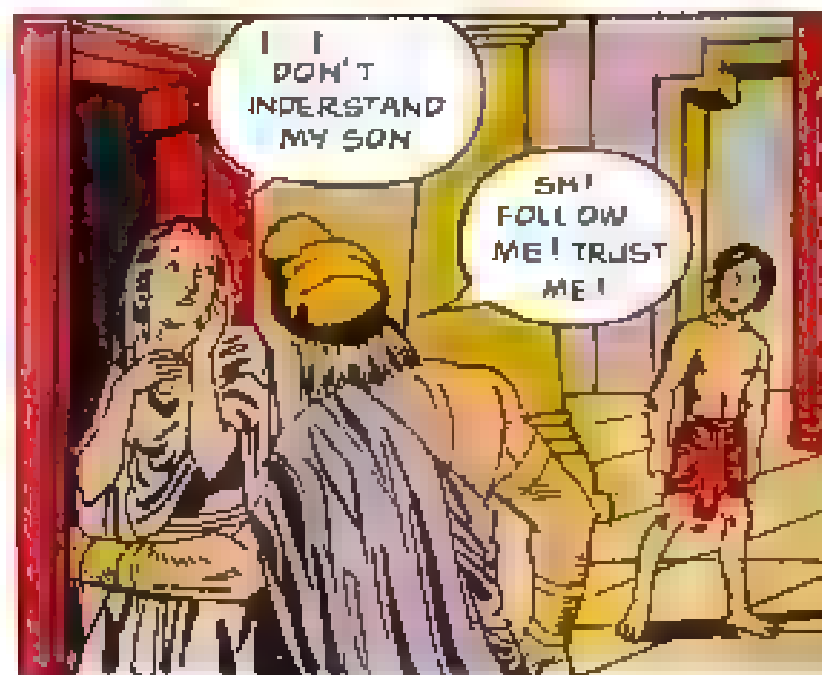
VERY WELL, SIR. BUT HE'LL NEVER MAKE A GOOD FISHERMAN.

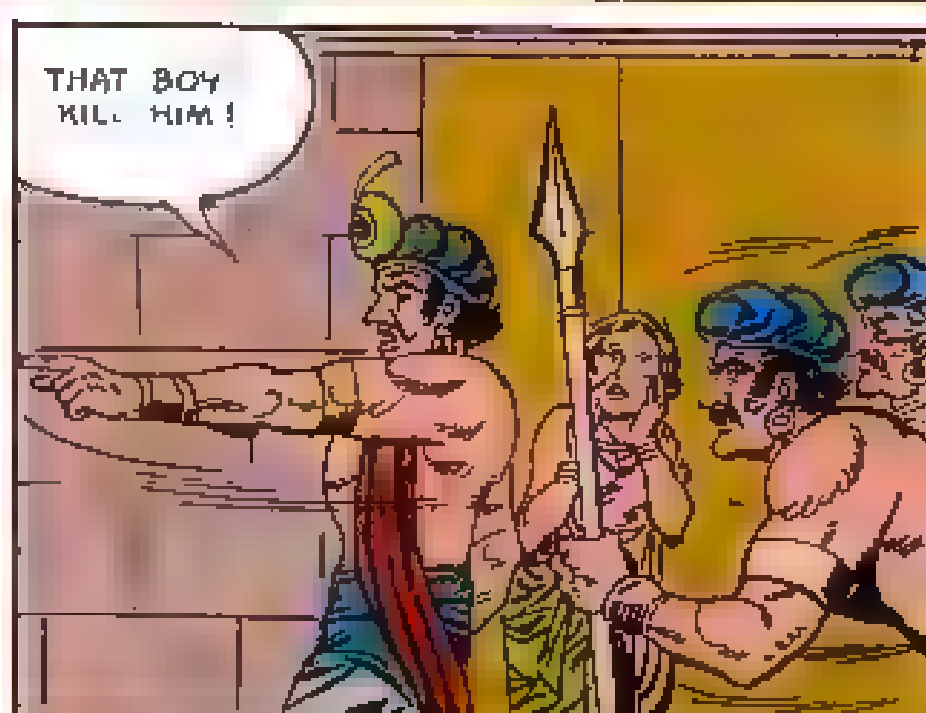
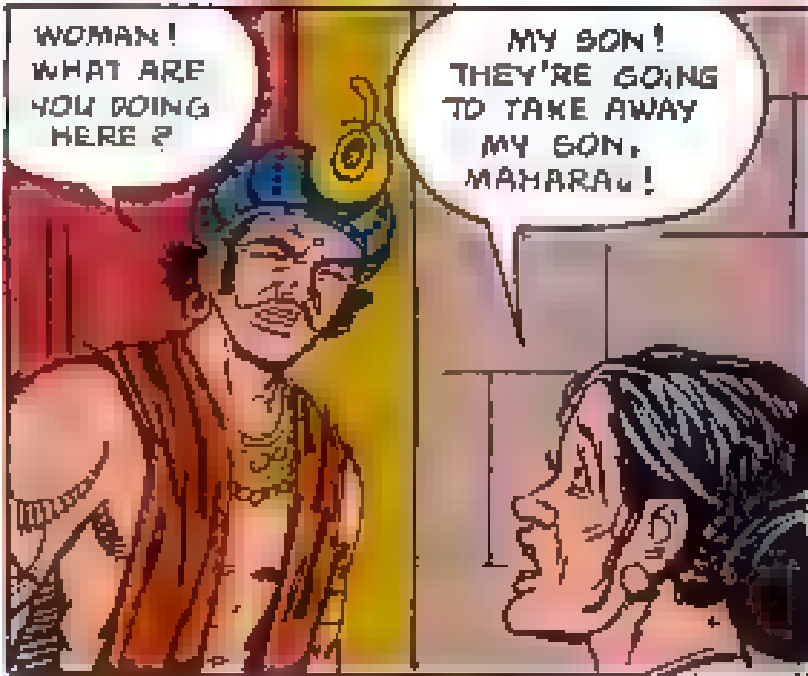


SEND HIM TO THE PALACE WITH THE FISH FROM TOMORROW.



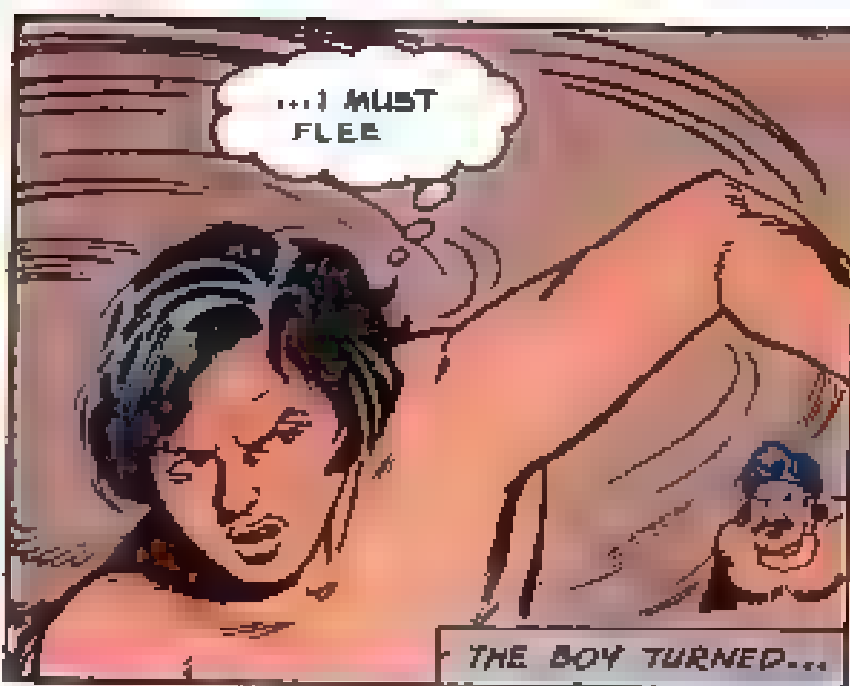






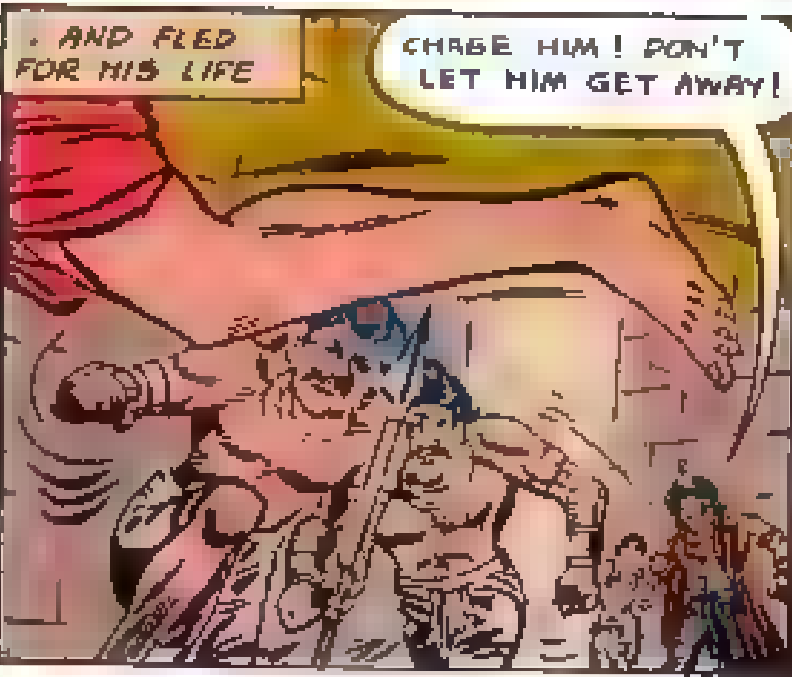


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'VE DONE,
BUT I DO KNOW
THAT .



...I MUST
FLEE

THE BOY TURNED...



AND FLED
FOR HIS LIFE

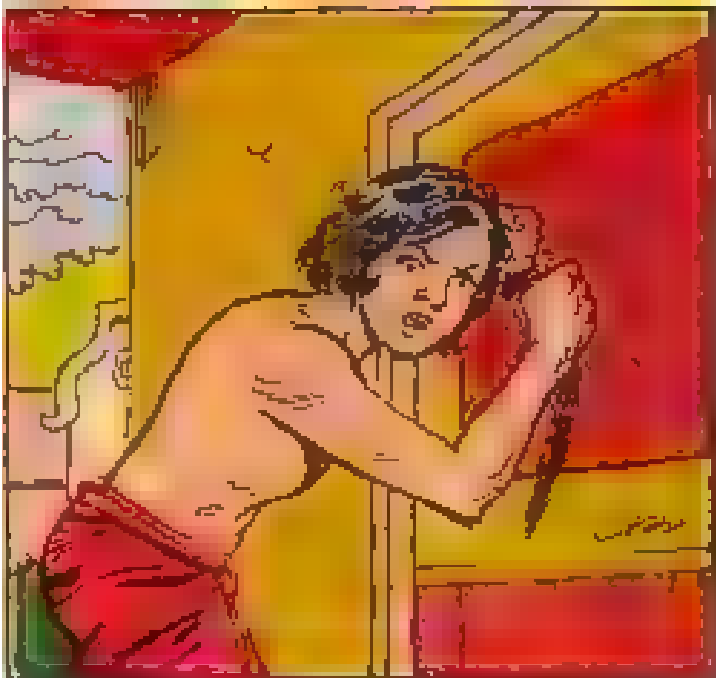
CHASE HIM! DON'T
LET HIM GET AWAY!



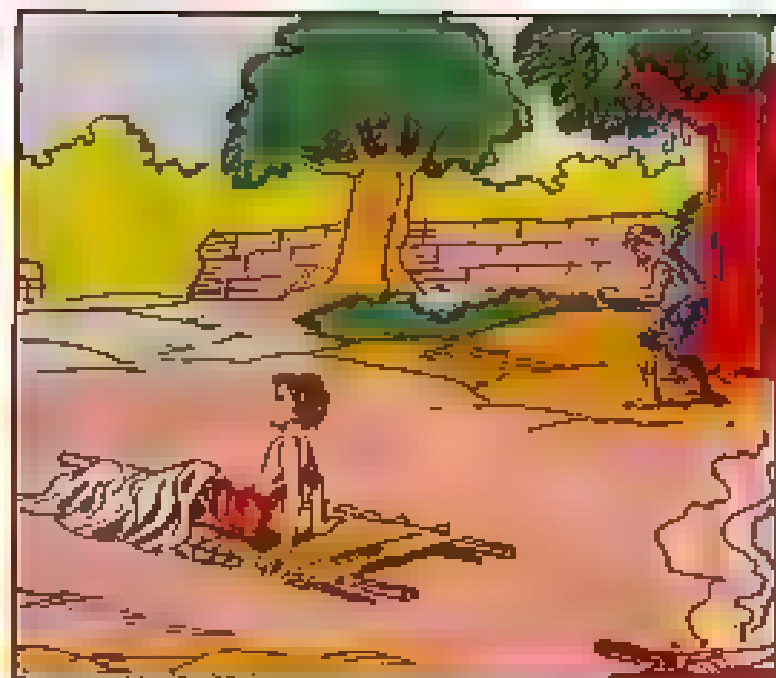
PHIEW! 'VE LEFT
THEM FAR BEHIND!
BUT THEY'LL
COME AFTER
ME

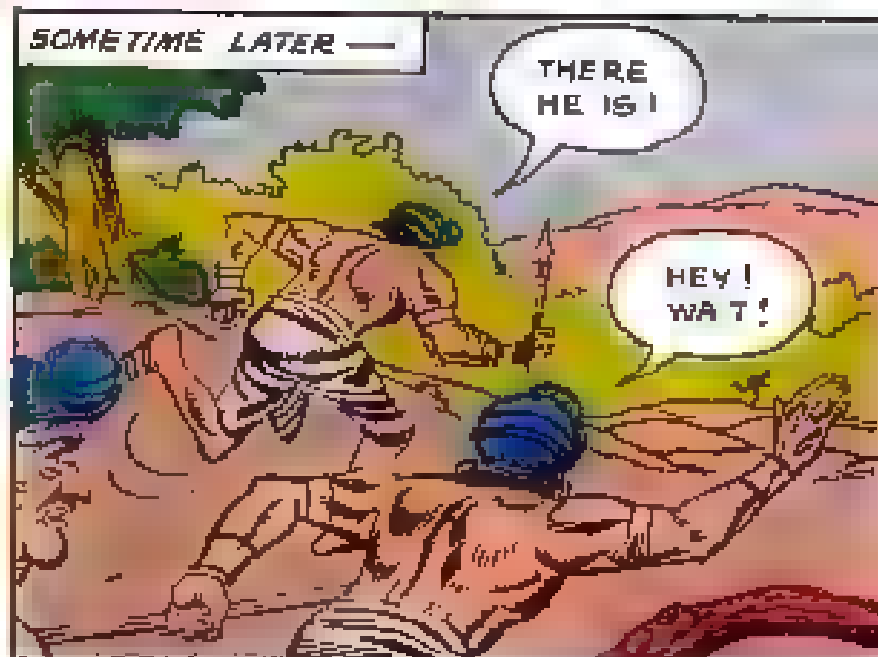


I'LL HIDE IN
THIS HOUSE



SOON





HIDDEN GEM

When Rama, the dutiful son of Dasharatha, left for the forest with Sita and Lakshmana, he came to the bank of the river Ganga, where he met Guha, the simple, rustic boatman.

"Please ferry us across the river," said Rama. But the boatman stood where he was.

"Please Guha, won't you take us across the river?"

"I will, Lord! But I heard that the dust of your feet turned granite into a woman (Ahalya). My boat is made of mere wood. So I'm afraid to let you step into it, unless I first wash your feet, Lord. Please let me do so."

Rama smiled and agreed. That was how the boatman had his simple desire to wash the feet of Rama, fulfilled.

— from Ramcharit Manas
Ayodhyakanda



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The Editor

Amar Chitra Katha — 'Hidden Gems' Section

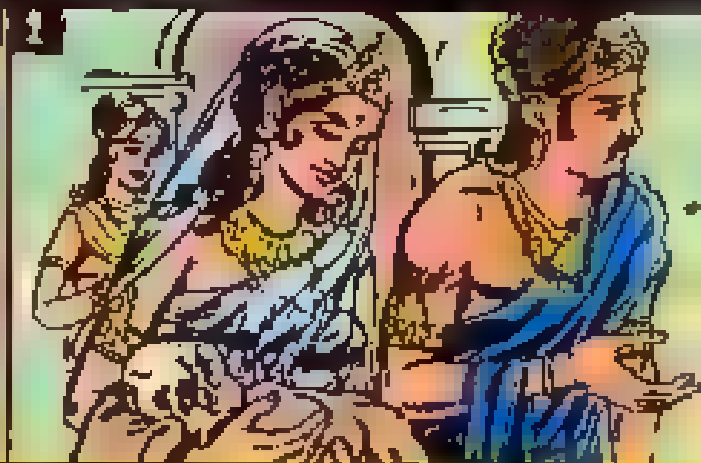
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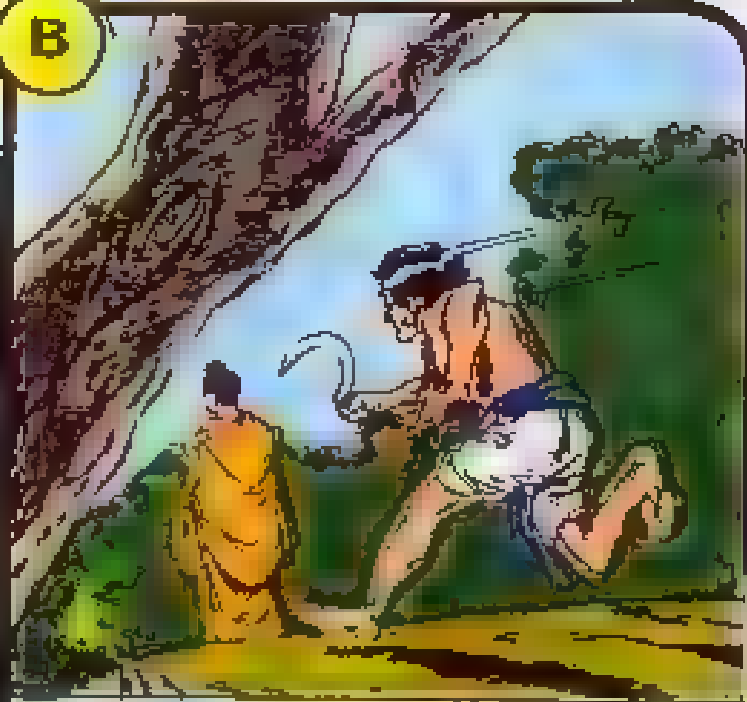
QUIZ CONTEST 10

A



The child later became a saint. Who was the child?

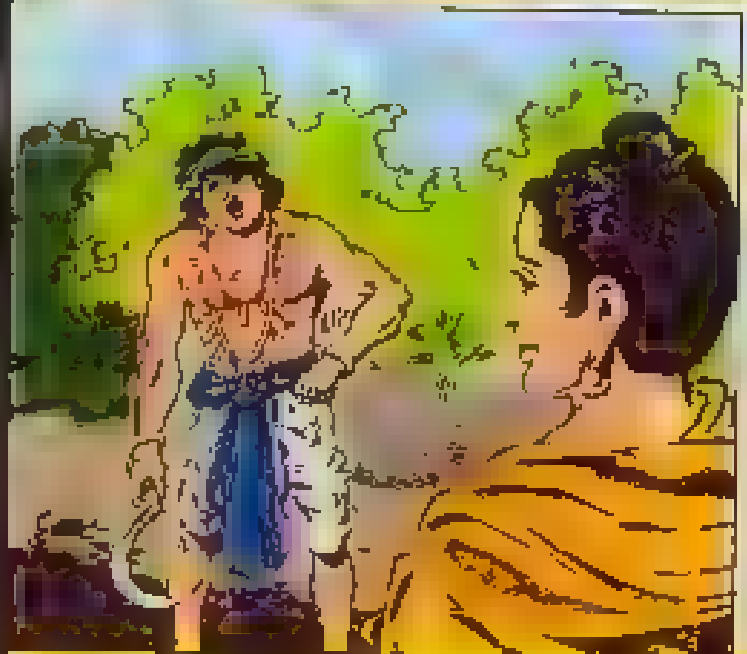
B



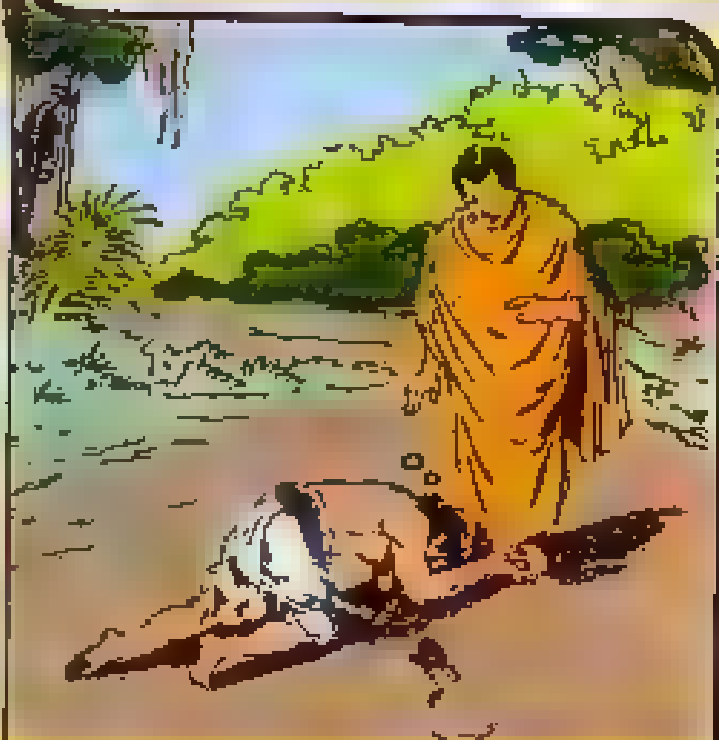
KAMSA,
THE EIGHTH
CHILD BORN TO
DEVAKI WILL
SLAY YOU!

Who was the eighth child of Devaki?

C



Name the robber who became Buddha's disciple.



The best answers received for ACK Quiz 9 will be published in ACK No. 294

THIS CHILD WILL BE
EITHER A KING OF
KINGS OR A GREAT
SAINT



What was he called as a child?

HASAN YOU
WILL BE A
KING ONE DAY!
TAKE THIS
AND GO!



AN UMBRELLA!
THE SYMBOL OF
A KING FOR ME.

Later Hasan founded a kingdom in the Deccan.
What title did he assume on becoming the Sultan?



Identify the famous shrine shown above.

Rules.

1. The first fifty all-correct entries will each win a prize of Rs. 10
2. The remaining all-correct entries will each win a colourful picture post card
3. The decision of the judges is final and binding
4. Mail your entries, (entry form given below) to

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ACK QUIZ 10 ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Age _____

Address: _____

Pin Code: _____

MY SOLUTIONS

A 1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

B _____

C _____

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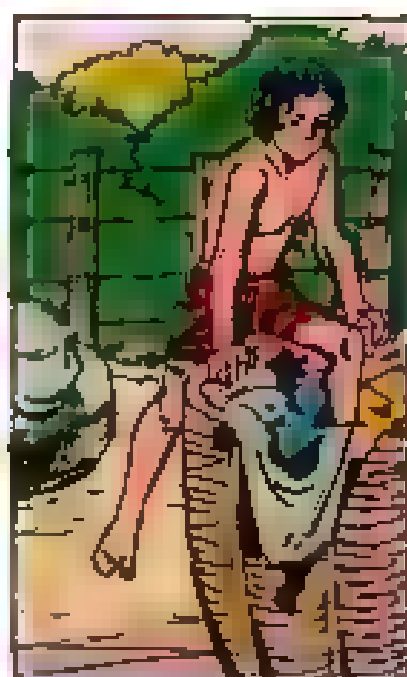
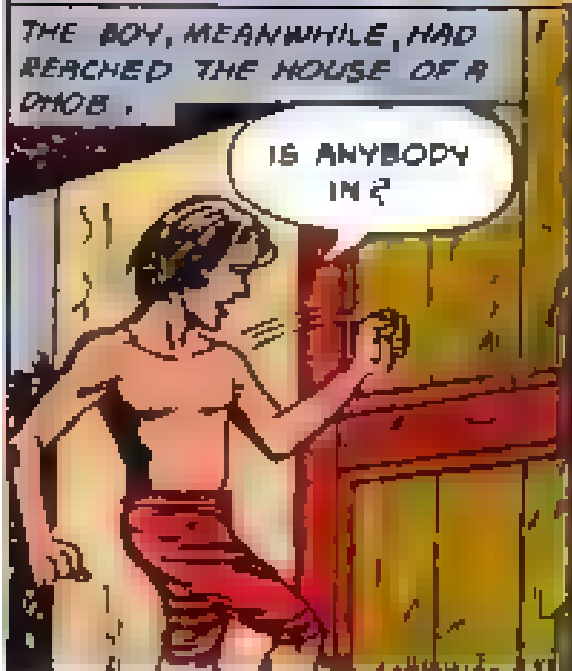
*"I'll make my airplane fly
High, high up in the sky
I'll get some Gems, just for fun
For me, for you, for everyone!"*



-Got a moment? Get a Gem!

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Chocolates

Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems!



FROM THE RIVER, THE BOY
WALKED TO THE NEXT
VILLAGE WHERE HE SAW
A COBBLER AT WORK



SIR, CAN YOU MAKE
ME A PAIR OF
SLIPPERS WITH
THE HEELS IN
FRONT &



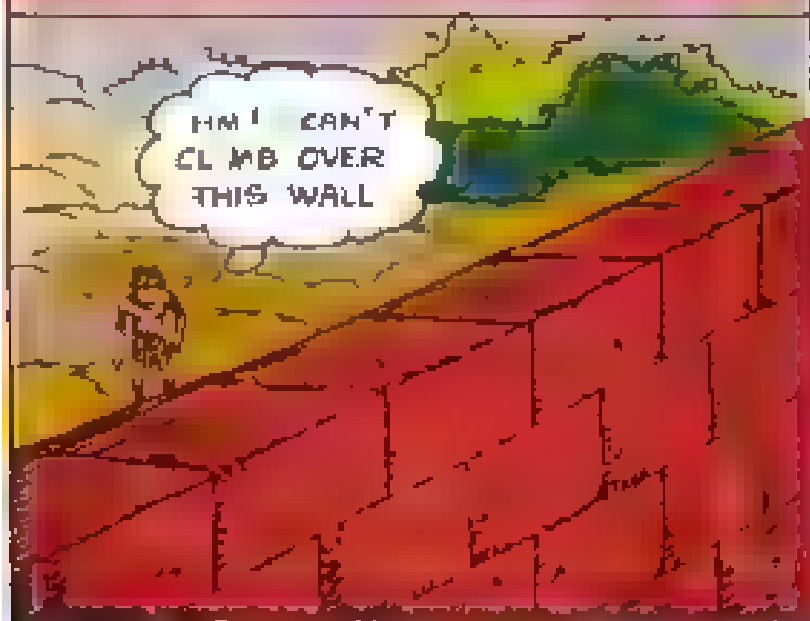
THE COBBLER AGREED AND
SOON —

THIS SHOULD PUT
THEM OFF MY
TRACK FOR A
WHILE

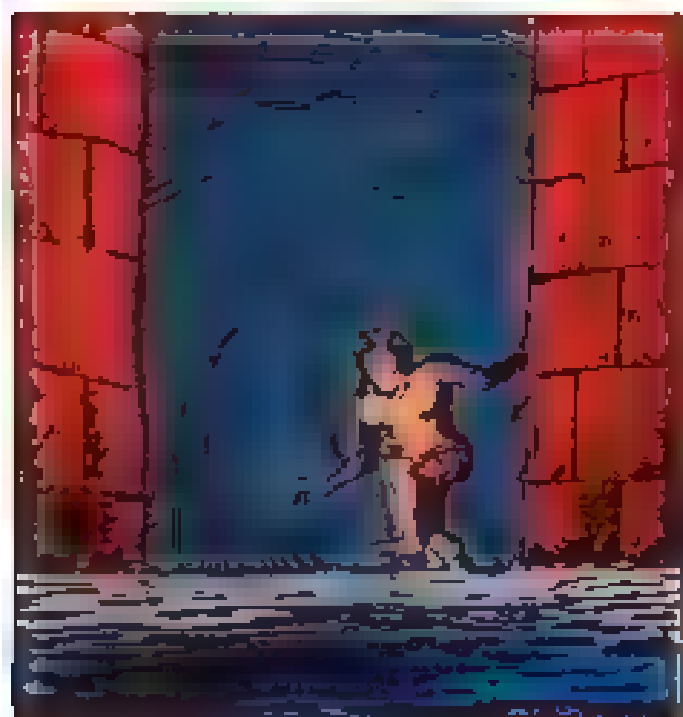


WHEN HE REACHED THE CITY WALL —

HM! CAN'T
CLIMB OVER
THIS WALL



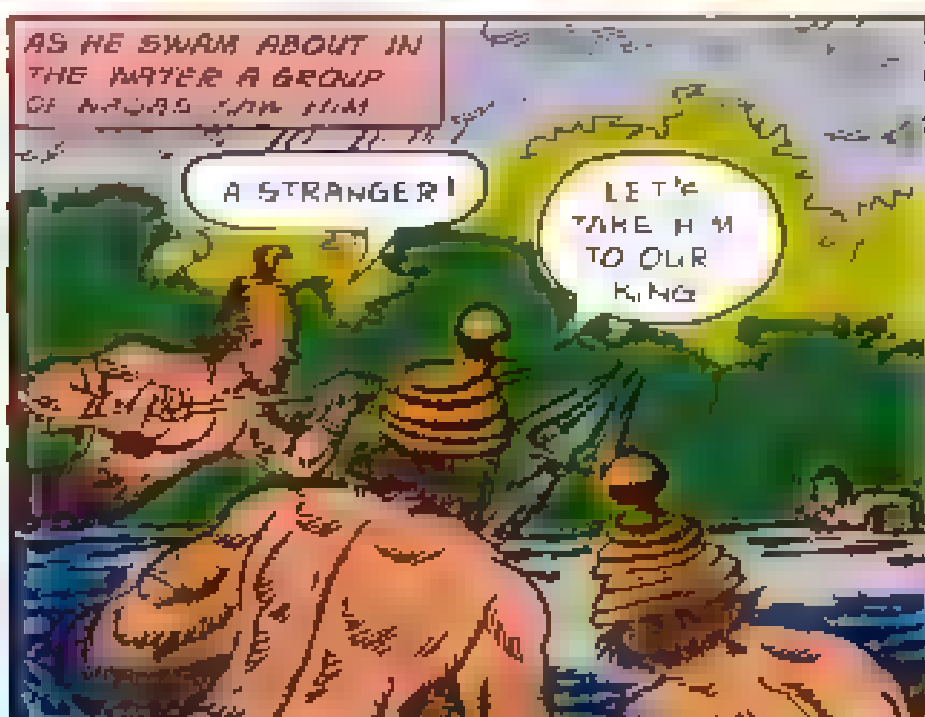
THE DRAIN!
THAT'S IT!

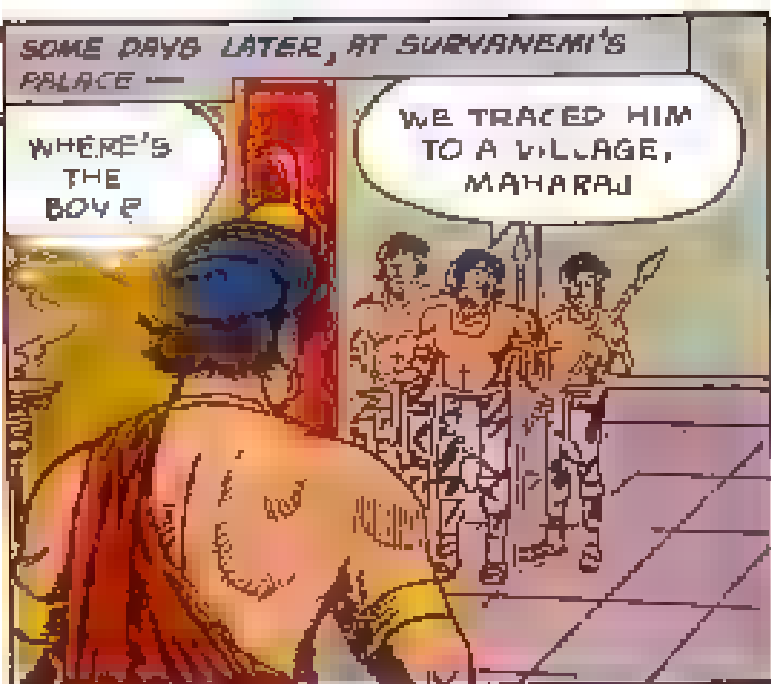


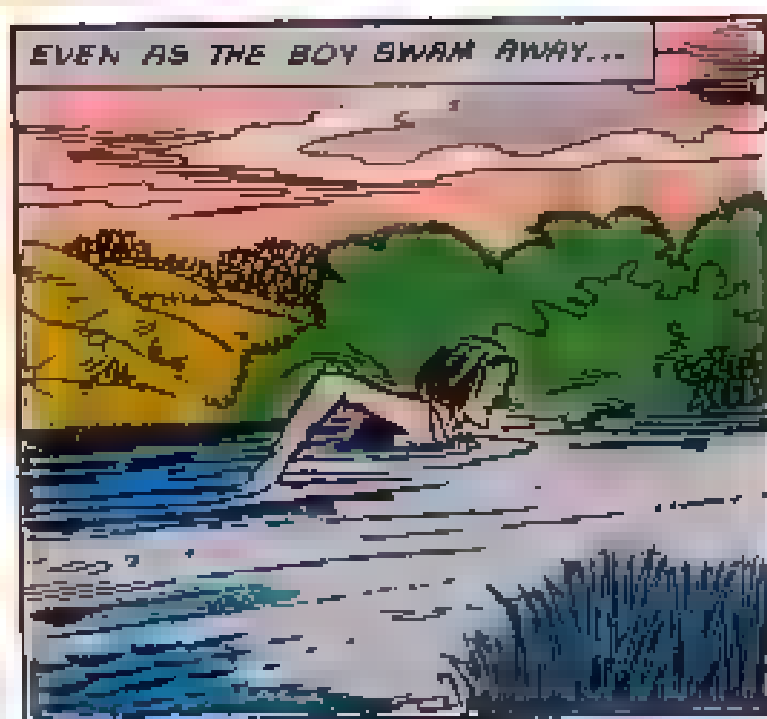
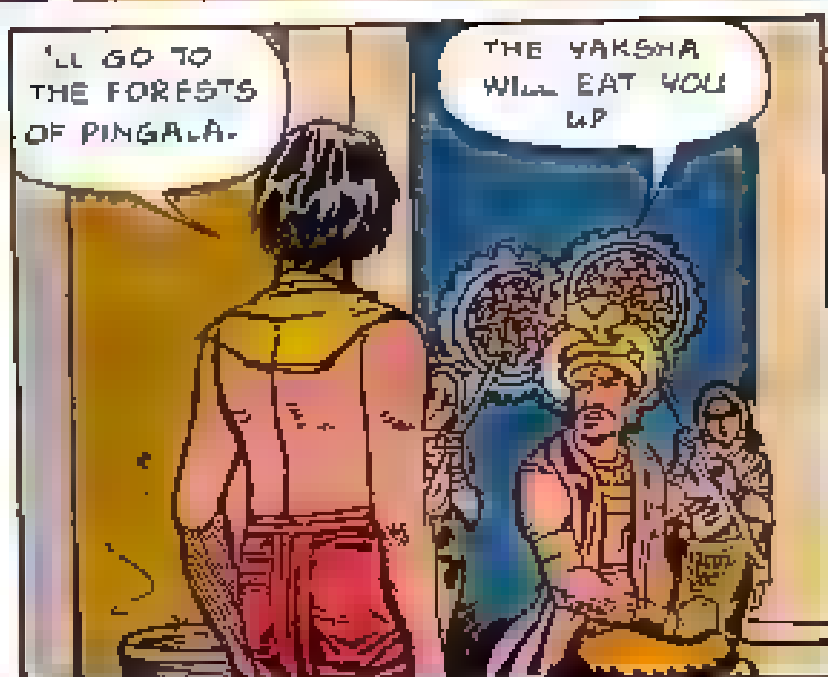
AS HE SWAM ABOUT IN
THE WATER A GROUP
OF NOBLES SAW HIM

A STRANGER!

LET'S
TAKE HIM
TO OUR
KING







THE SNAKE-CHARMERS
CAME TO THE
NAGA KING

IF YOU GIVE UP THE
BOY, WE'LL SPARE
YOU

YOU ARE TOO
LATE HE'S FLED
TO THE FOREST
OF PINGALA



PINGALA,
THE
YAKSHAP

YES
THE BOY
IS AS GOOD
AS DEAD

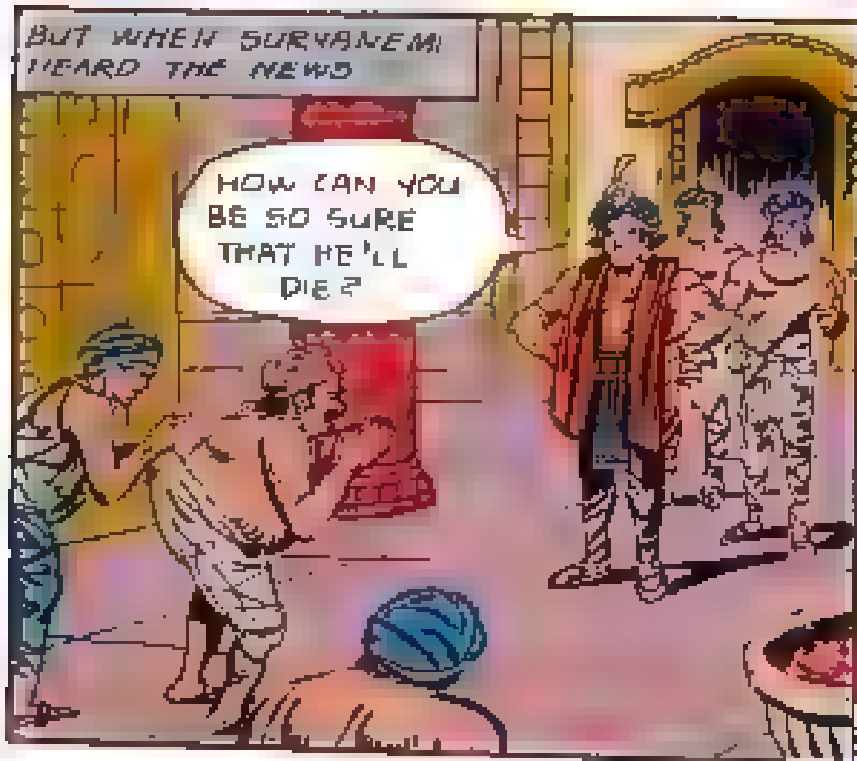


LET'S RETURN TO
THE KING AND GIVE
HIM THE NEWS IT
SHOULD MAKE
HIM HAPPY



BUT WHEN SURYANEMI
HEARD THE NEWS

HOW CAN YOU
BE SO SURE
THAT HE'LL
DIE?

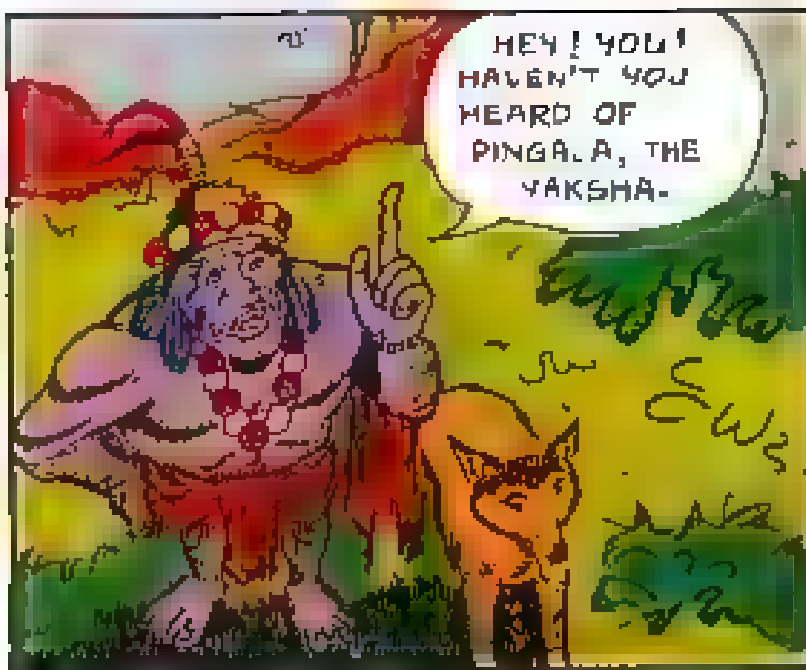


SURROUND THE
FOREST AND KILL
HIM ON SIGHT IF
HE COMES OUT
ALIVE



THE BOY MEANWHILE, HAD REACHED THE FOREST AND WAS WANDERING ABOUT WHEN —



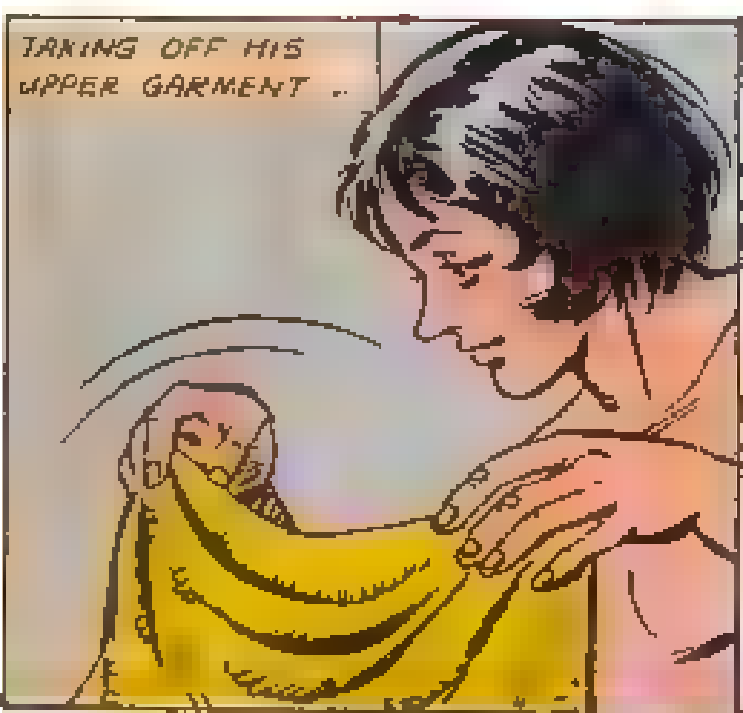




HE'S FALLEN
ASLEEP BUT THE
DOGS ARE JUST
DOZING



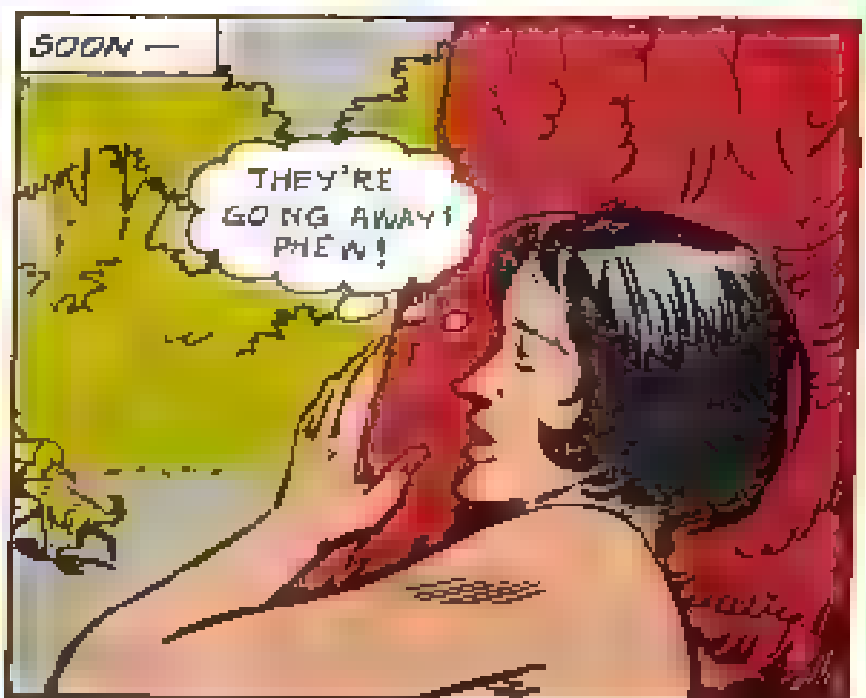
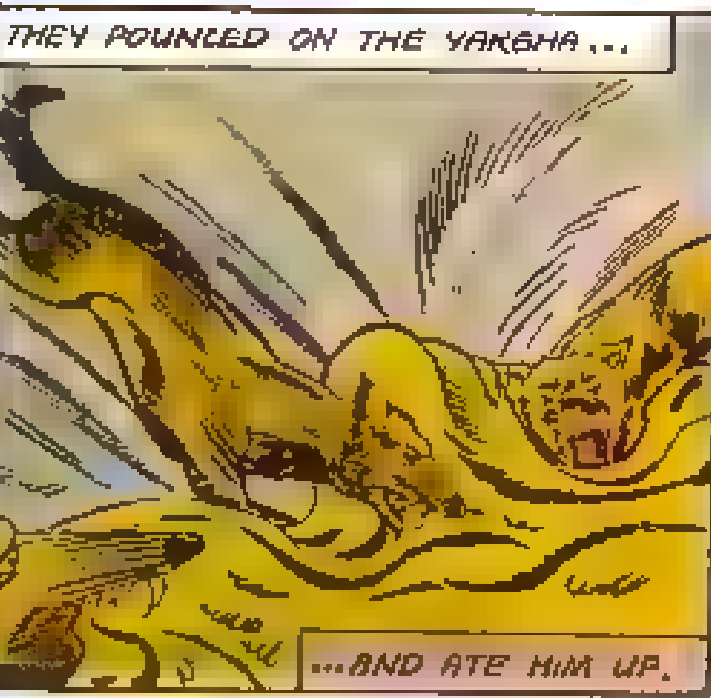
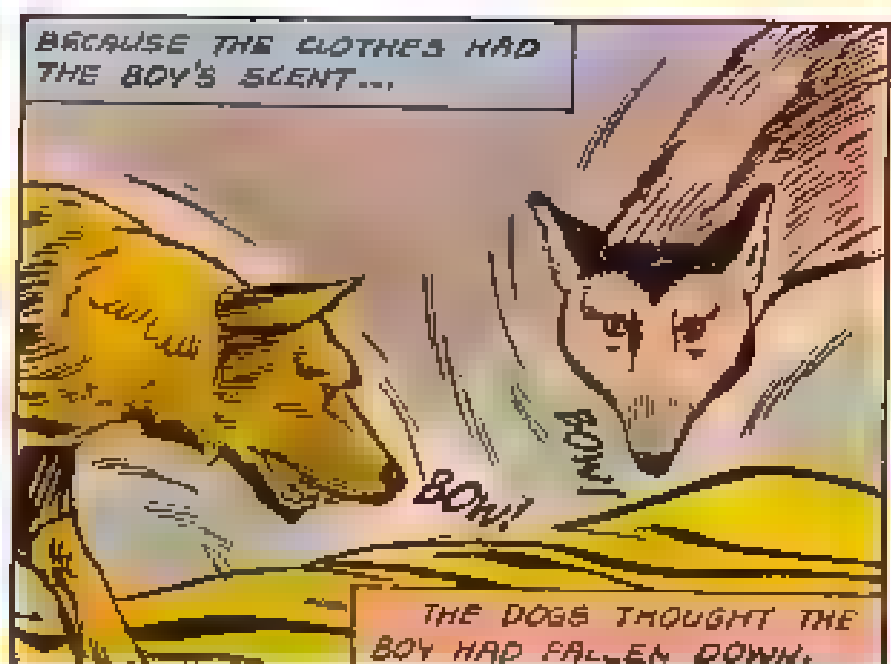
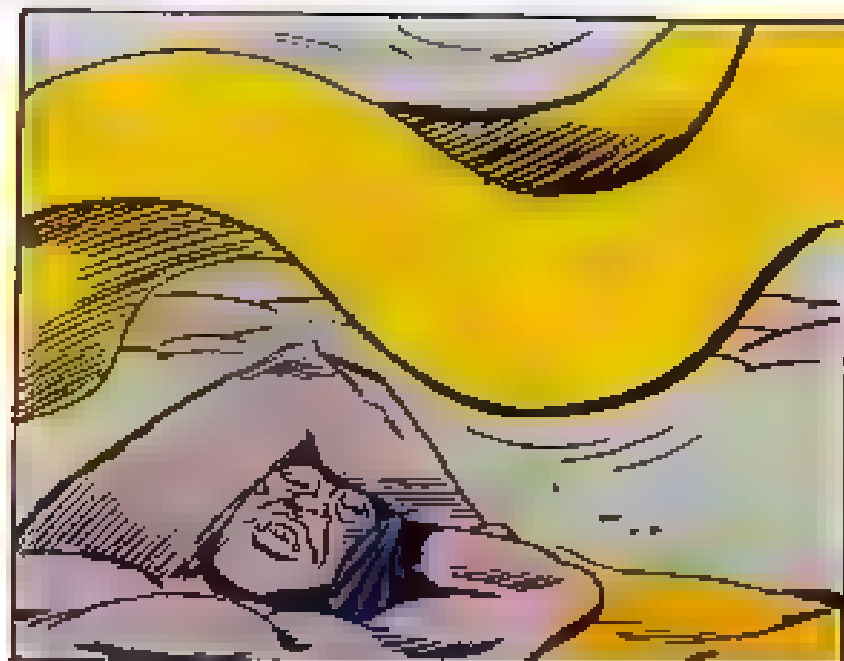
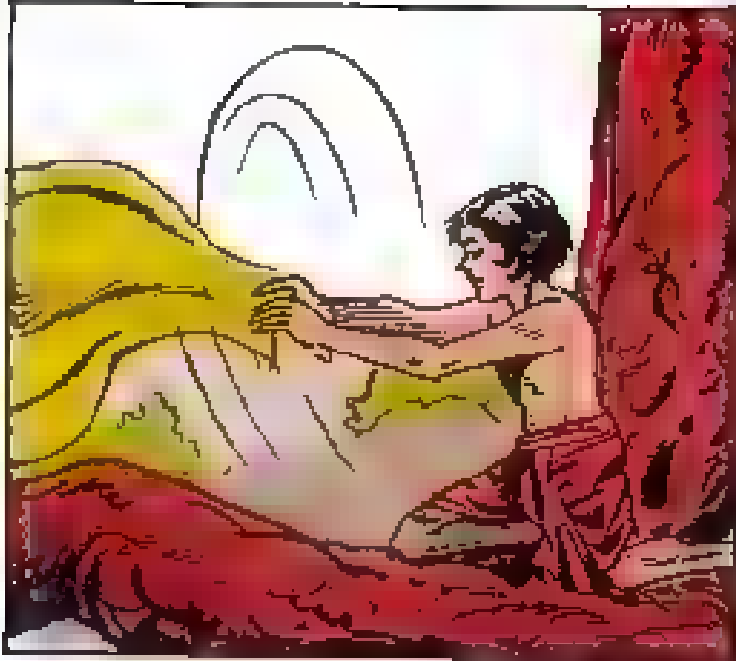
AS THE BOY WONDERED
HOW TO MAKE HIS
ESCAPE —



TAKING OFF HIS
UPPER GARMENT —



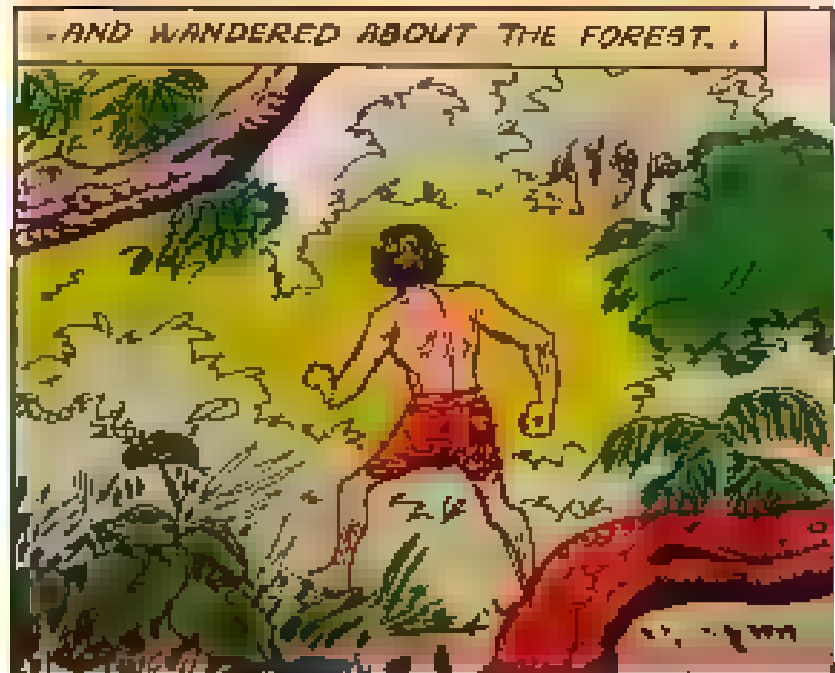
HE CAREFULLY
TOOK AIM.



THE YOUTH CAME
DOWN



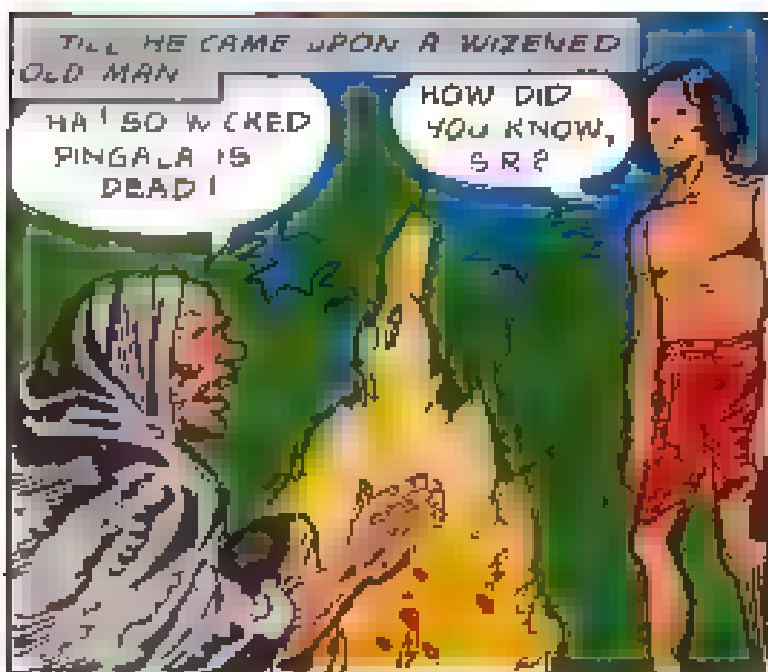
AND WANDERED ABOUT THE FOREST.



TILL HE CAME UPON A WIZENED
OLD MAN

HA! SO WICKED
PINGALA IS
DEAD!

HOW DID
YOU KNOW,
SR?



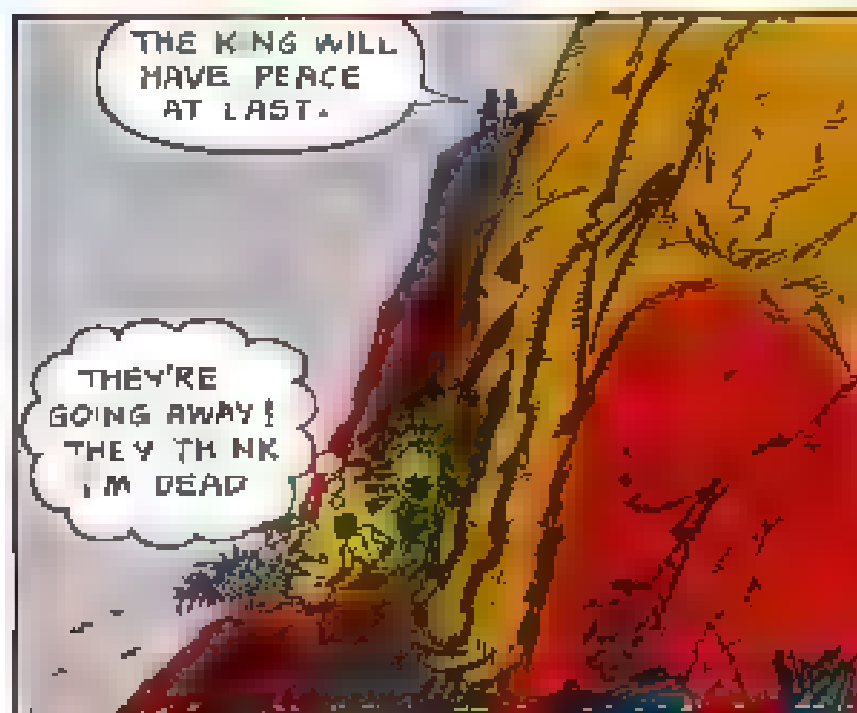
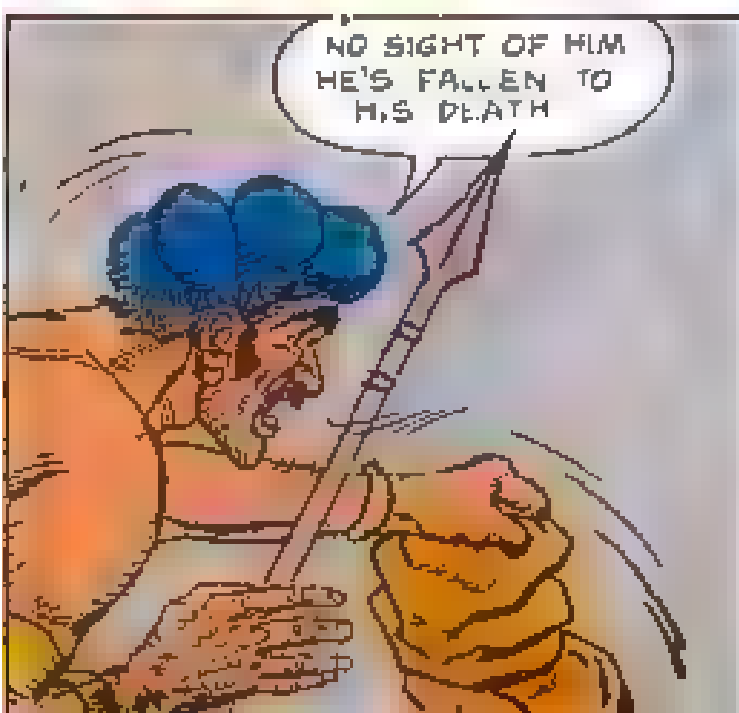
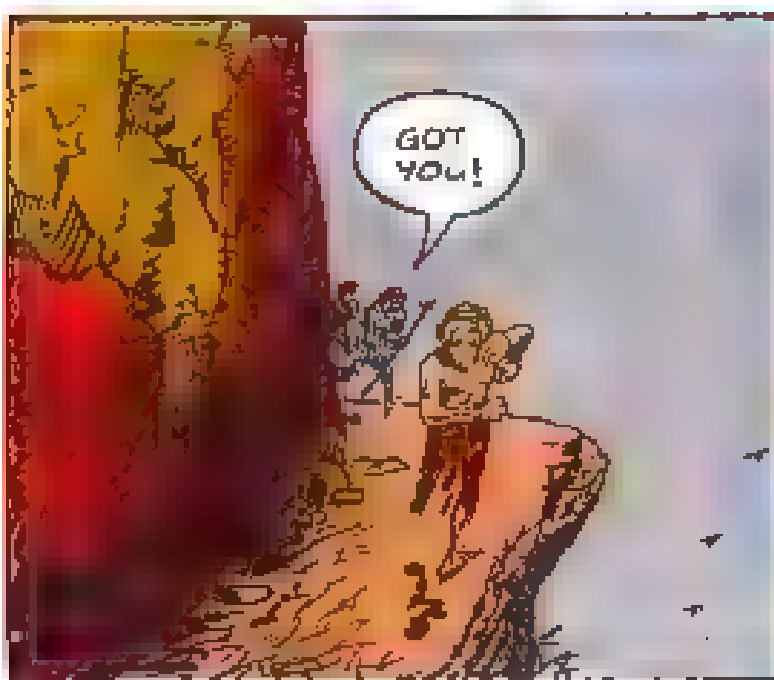
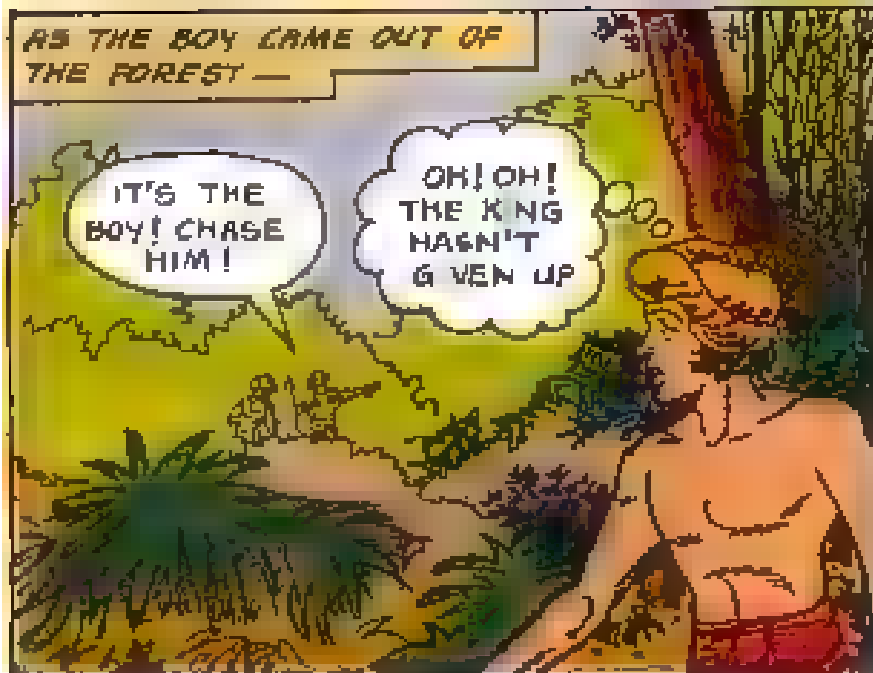
HE WAS DESTIN
ED TO BE KILLED
BY A YOUTH YOU
ARE ALIVE, SO
HE MUST BE
DEAD!

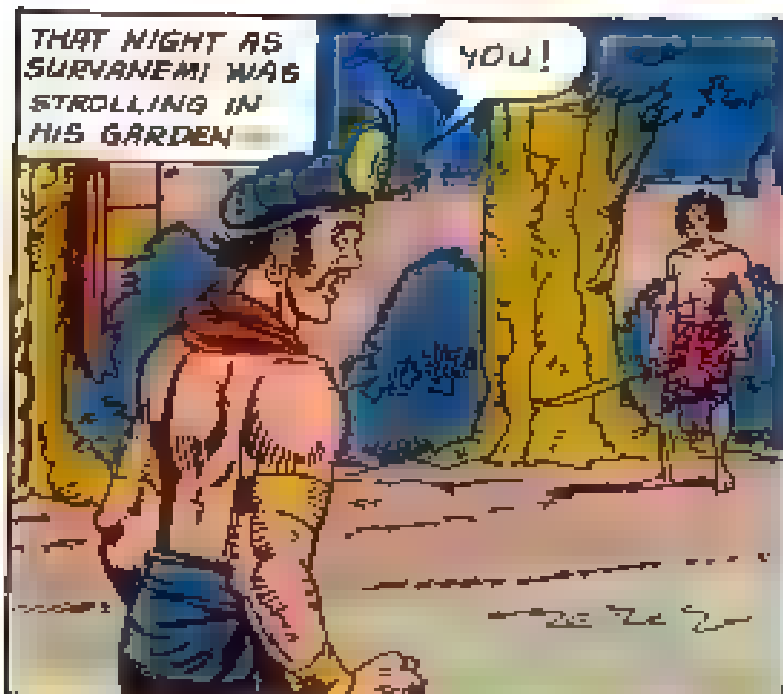
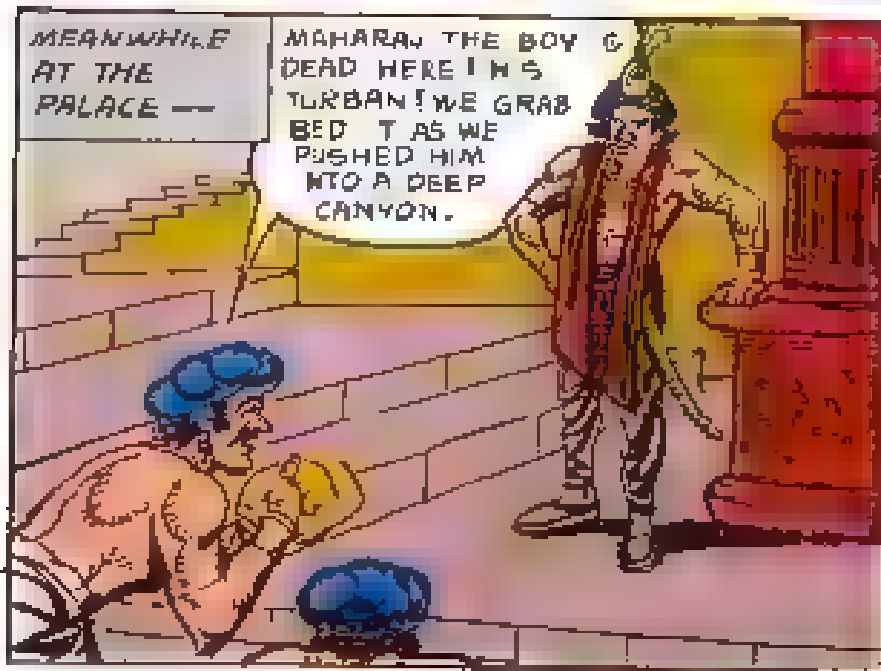


THEN ONE
MORNING

GO OUT
THE WAY, TOLD
YOU SON THIS
TURBAN WILL
PROTECT YOU ON
THE WAY







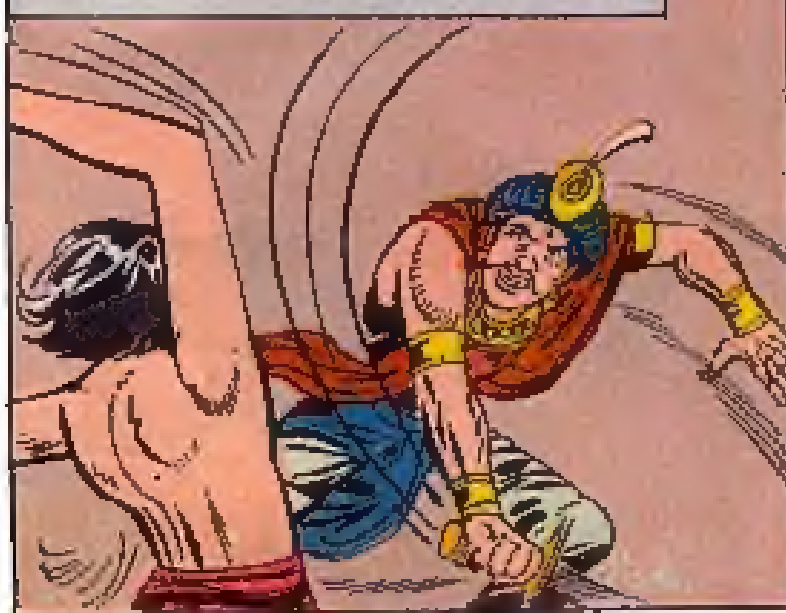
... BUT HERE
I AM —
KILL ME IF
YOU CAN.



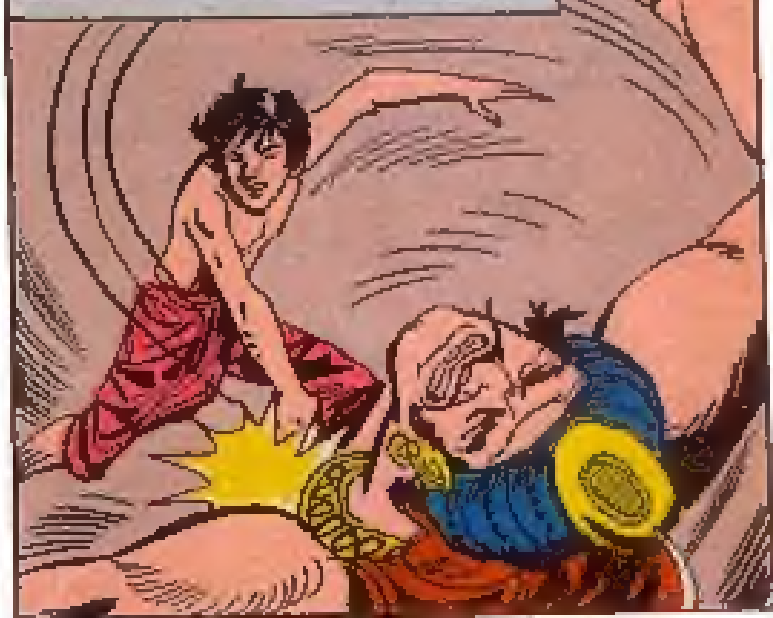
SURYANEMI DREW HIS SWORD.



IN THE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWED...



... SURYANEMI WAS KILLED.



HOW I HATED
DOING THAT!

BUT HE
LEFT YOU
NO CHOICE.



YOU!



TELL ME WHY HE
WANTED TO HAVE
ME KILLED.



IT'S A LONG
STORY, SON.
A SAD
STORY.



GOSMTHILA THEN TOLD THE BOY ABOUT
THE PROPHECY, SURYANEMI'S WICKED
ORDER AND HOW HE HAD AVERTED IT.

HE WAS MORE
ATTACHED TO THE
KINGDOM THAN TO
HIS MOTHER OR
BROTHER.



COME. LET US GO
AND DO WHAT HAS
TO BE DONE. THE
KINGDOM IS
WITHOUT A KING.



THE BOY WAS CROWNED
KING. HE RULED OVER
VARNASI AND LOOKED
AFTER HIS SUBJECTS
EVEN BETTER THAN
HIS FATHER HAD DONE.

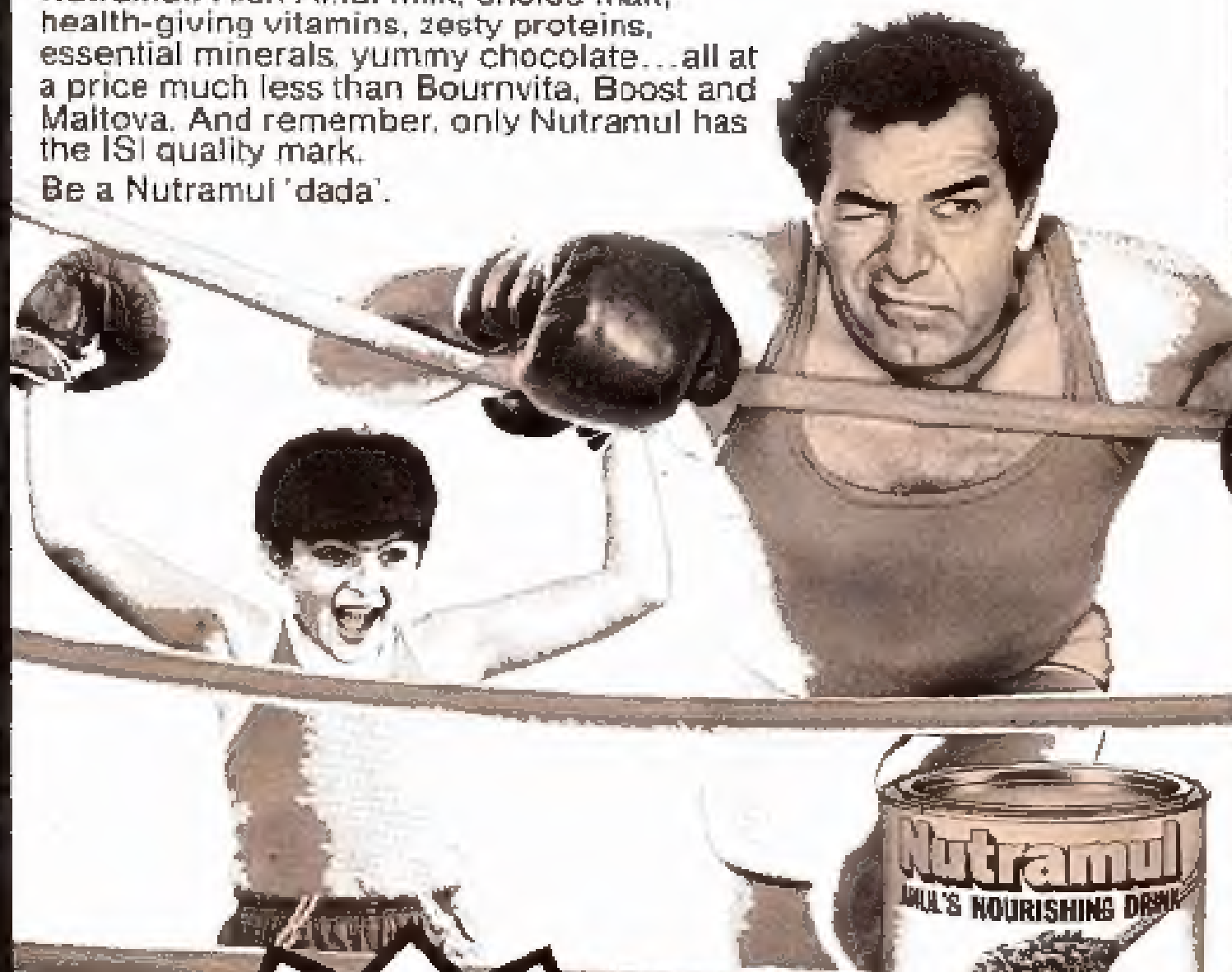


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It's a Goldspotting day!**

